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Mr. C. Basu Dev:—" Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to call for the information to know how far the judiciary, especially in Tinnevelly are encouraging the depressed classes?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" The question will be considered, Sir."

Agriculture

Notifications Nos. 370 *and* 371, *published in the Fort St. George Gazette, dated* 25*th October* 1935 in re *sugar industry.*

* 534-A *Q.*—Sir William Wright: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether, prior to the publication, in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of October 25th, 1935, of drafts of notifications Nos. 370 and 371, Government consulted any of the commercial interests in Madras engaged in the sugar industry;

(*b*) if so, whom; and

(*c*) if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No.

(*c*) The Government received their information from the Director of Agriculture, and it was assumed that he had consulted the interests concerned. The notifications have now been published with a view to inviting criticism of the figures so arrived at.

Sir William Wright:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister for Public Works whether representations have been made by various commercial interests to reduce the rates in view of the fact that the present rates will cause damage to the local sugar industry as the rates in other provinces are so much lower?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" Sir, it has since been brought to my notice by some hon. Members of this House that the rates tentatively suggested in the notification are far in excess of those fixed in other provinces and that they will further facilitate the already existing competition the sugar industry in the south has to face from the northern provinces. Also they might irretrievably damage the local sugar industry recently started in some districts at considerable capital expenditure by promoters who have not as yet received any return on their capital. I can give this assurance to hon. Members that these and other relevant matters will have the fullest consideration of Government before they finally fix the minimum prices."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" May I ask whether the Government realize that the minimum rate fixed under the notification is higher than the cost at which cane is sold in the market?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I cannot say that off-hand."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" Will the Government be pleased to remove this minimum rate at least in places where there are small sugar factories whose outturn is about 50 tons?"

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The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" We have given opportunities to all interests concerned to represent their case to Government before the 5th of the next month. As I have already said, we will take all these factors into consideration when fixing the rate finally."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" May I know what is the principle or basis on which these rates are fixed? I see that in Kistna it is Rs. 10 whereas in the neighbouring district of Godavari it is Rs. 13? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" The cost of cultivation and the varieties of cane grown are all taken into consideration. The rates tentatively fixed were based on the facts then known to the Government."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the variety grown in Kistna does not materially differ from that grown in Godavari? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" There might be other factors. Here I may repeat the assurance that those factors which were not taken into consideration in the first instance will hereafter be taken into consideration in fixing the rates finally."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" Is it not advisable in the interests of the agriculturists to provide a minimum rate in the notification? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" That is what we are exactly proposing to do."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" After these objections have been received, will the Government take into consideration the fact that in the same area the quality of sugarcane grown may be different and may vary with seasonal conditions and the nature of the soil? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I have already given the assurance that any new fact placed before them will receive their careful consideration before the Government finally fix the minimum rates after consulting the commercial, industrial and agricultural interests."

Local Self-Government

Recognition of the B.E. and Lower Subordinate qualifications of the Mysore University for employment under Local Boards.

* 534-B *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state— 11-15 a.m.

(*a*) whether holders of B.E. qualification and Lower Subordinate qualification of the Mysore University are eligible for appointment as Engineers or Overseers in District Boards or Municipalities; and

(*b*) if not, why the bar has not been removed?

A.—The holders of the B.E. degree of the Mysore University are eligible for appointment as Assistant Engineers under District Boards and as Engineers under Municipal Councils.